



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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MINUTES COMBINED BUILDING, FIRE & PLUMBING CODES COMMITTEE AND MECHANICAL, VENTILATION & ENERGY CODES COMMITTEE

Date: October 11, 2002
Location: SeaTac Marriott Hotel
SeaTac, Washington

Committee Members Present: Dave Saunders, Chair of the Building, Fire & Plumbing Codes Committee; Stan Price, Chair of the Mechanical, Ventilation & Energy Codes Committee; Dave Baker; John Fulginiti; Dale Shafer; Rick Ford; Terry Poe; Bill Misocky; Peter De Vries

Members Absent: Rory Calhoun, Jim Lewis, Steve Nuttall

Visitors Present: Bob Eugene, Anjela Foster, Brian Minnich, Kevin Watier, Sharon Alexander, Kraig Stevenson, John McDonald, Paul O'Connor, John Hogan, Diane Hansen

Staff Present: Tim Nogler, Al Rhoades, Krista Braaksma, Sue Mathers, Patti Thorn

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by Dave Saunders, Chair of the Building, Fire & Plumbing Codes Committee. Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed and approved as written.

ENERGY CODE TAG RULEMAKING PROPOSAL

The Committee reviewed a rulemaking proposal from the Energy Code TAG. The TAG recommends the Committee approve their proposal and forward it on to the Council for possible rulemaking to adopt the proposed code changes related to: 1) window glazing as it applies to high-rise, multi-family buildings, and 2) duct tape.

Window Glazing

Stan Price reported that action was taken by Council earlier this year to institute an emergency rule on the window glazing issue. This emergency rule is close to its expiration today and the Committee needs to take action today to extend it, if determined appropriate.

Stan reported that the Energy Code TAG met 4 to 5 times to discuss the best way to address the concerns of the petitioner of the proposed code change. Specifically, that the Energy code as it was written in 2001 placed undue difficulties on multi-family construction in regarding the allowed percentage of glazing area in relationship to the thermal performance of that glazing system. Stan noted that the TAG had not done an analysis on high-rise residential, only on low-rise structure. Because of this omission, an emergency rule was granted while the TAG took time to review the current code language.

The TAG analysis resulted in a near majority consensus regarding the relationship of glazing area and thermal performance of windows. The TAG has recommended changes to Chapter 6, Tables 6.1 and 6.2, to add two rows to the prescriptive tables, one of which would have up to 25 percent glazing path and a second row which would have an unlimited amount of glazing available for R-1 Occupancies.

Stan also stated that at Sue Alden's urging, and at the acceptance of all the TAG members, the TAG is also recommending that these values be applied to all R-1 construction, though our mandate specifically was to look at and do analysis on buildings above 5 stories. From an equity standpoint, the TAG members felt there was no reason to not recommend this code change for all R-1 construction.

Duct Tape

The Energy Code TAG also reviewed some concerns raised regarding duct tape and how it is handled in the code, specifically what is duct tape and where can it be used. Stan stated that the language currently in the code has created some confusion as to whether or not duct tape was an approved tape for use in sealing joints in ductwork. A sub-TAG was created to look more closely at this issue. Attending these meetings were Sharon Alexander, Terry Poe, Larry Andrews, Lavelle Perrin, Chuck Murray and Stan Price. This sub-TAG is recommending revisions to the code language in two areas: 1) adding a definition of "transverse joint" and 2) an amendment to Section 503.10 recommending that tapes be approved for use as long as they're in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions that provides detailed information specific to their application.

Extension of Emergency Rule

The Committee discussed the current emergency rule regarding window glazing in high-rise residential buildings. It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend this emergency rule be renewed for an additional 120 days until final action is taken on the proposed code changes.

Motion #1:

Stan Price moved to recommend the Council enter rulemaking on the Energy Code revisions proposed by the Energy TAG and further recommended Council action on extension of the Energy Code emergency rule for an additional 120 days. Terry Poe seconded the motion.

After initial Committee discussion, Stan split the motion to separate out the two issues. Terry Poe concurred.

Motion #1a:

Stan Price moved to recommend the Council enter rulemaking on the proposal from the Energy TAG regarding glazing in Type R-1 occupancies and duct tape. Terry Poe seconded the motion.

Dale Shafer raised a concern regarding the elimination of the Wattsun program. He stated that this is a useful tool and it was his hope that something could be done to maintain it as an option or to develop a substitute for it. Stan noted that Wattsun is a piece of proprietary software owned by Washington State University (WSU). The program was deleted from the code when WSU notified the Council that they would no longer update the program nor provide support for it. Because this was written into the code as “suggested” software and there was no requirement for its use, it was decided to eliminate it as requested by WSU.

Dave Baker concurred with Dale Shafer that Wattsun is a valuable tool. He stated that his association is discussing having the software updated, if possible.

John Fulginiti asked Stan to address the letter in the meeting packet from Tom Nichols, Smokey Point Custom Wood Windows. Stan stated that he talked with Tom Nichols and was able to alleviate his concerns when he clarified that this was an area-rated approach in the prescriptive table and couldn't be traded across building components.

Motion #1a carried unanimously.

Motion #1b:

Stan moved to recommend that the Council re-issue the emergency rule regarding window glazing in high-rise residential occupancies. Terry Poe seconded the motion.

Dale Shafer asked if the emergency still existed and what would happen if we did not extend it. Tim Nogler noted that the emergency does still exist if you consider that the condition that originally occurred was in the 2001 version of the code. This earlier version of the code was applied to all buildings all across the board. The declaration of emergency addresses the fact that the TAG did not do an analysis specifically above 5 stories and that that analysis needed to be completed in order to look at what the rule should be for those occupancies.

Motion #1b carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON CODE REVIEW TAG

Stan Price reported that the International Residential Code (IRC) TAG held two meetings to review the IRC. The IRC TAG report was distributed at today's meeting.

Motion #2:

Dave Saunders moved to acknowledge receipt of the IRC TAG report in anticipation of review and possible action at a subsequent meeting. Dave Baker seconded the motion.

Tim Nogler gave a brief overview of the IRC TAG process and the report presented to the Committee today. He noted that two TAG meetings were held on September 19 and September 20, 2002. Council member Peter De Vries chaired these meetings. On September 19, the TAG heard a presentation of the IRC provided by Kraig Stevenson, ICBO/ICC. During the meeting on September 20, the TAG held a round table discussion on the questions outlined in the TAG work plan. The responses to the work plan were compiled in the TAG report.

Joe Brewer asked if the final report should wait until the Council received an answer back from ICC regarding the appeal process. Dave Saunders reiterated that the report would not be acted upon until a future date. A response from ICC will continue to be sought during that time.

Bill Misocky asked for clarification on the benefit of simply receiving the draft. He stressed that there were still issues unresolved and the report is not complete. Dave Saunders noted that the intent of his motion was simple to receive the report and not take any action until a future date.

Tim Nogler stated that Mr. Stevenson's presentation was available on both audio- and video-tape and could be provided for a small fee.

Motion #2 carried unanimously.

PIPELINE SAFETY

Tim Nogler reported on a letter received from a citizen's committee on pipeline safety, which was distributed in the meeting packet. This committee is very concerned about pipeline safety and asked the Building Code Council to consider the possibility to get the "call before you dig"

phone number published on building permits. Tim indicated that his response to the citizen's committee was to place this issue on the next Council agenda for discussion. Dave Saunders noted that Yakima County stamps all their plans that get issued a permit with the "call before you dig" number. He also volunteered to bring this issue before WABO at their quarterly meeting being held next week in Yakima. He will bring back to the Council any feedback from WABO on this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.